



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish;
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ATRIPLEX TRUNCATA
WEDGE-LEAVED SALTBUUSH

Wedge-leaved Saltbush is an annual with simple to branched stems that are 15-100 cm tall. The alternate, wedge shaped to oval leaves, 15-40 mm long, have entire margins and short petioles. The foliage is sparsely to densely covered with grayish scales that rub off. Small, unisexual flowers are borne in clusters in leaf axils. Male flowers lack petals but have a 5-parted calyx. Female flowers lack both petals and sepals and are subtended by 2 wedge-shaped bracts that are 2-3 mm long in fruit and which have entire margins but 2-3 low teeth across the top. Flowering and fruiting in August-September.

ATRIPLEX TRUNCATA is similar to *A. ARGENTEA*, *A. POWELLII*, and *A. ROSEA*, but can be distinguished by the wedge-shaped flower bracts that are 3 mm long or less with smooth faces and a wavy or toothed upper margin.